

1918

Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child

H. T. Burleigh

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"Sometimes I feel Like"

NEGRO SPIRITUALS

Arranged for Solo Voice by

H. T. BURLEIGH

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD

Low Medium High



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THE plantation songs known as "spirituals" are the spontaneous outbursts of intense religious fervor, and had their origin chiefly in camp meetings, revivals and other religious exercises.

They were never "composed," but sprang into life, ready made, from the white heat of religious fervor during some protracted meeting in camp or church, as the simple, ecstatic utterance of wholly untutored minds, and are practically the only music in America which meets the scientific definition of Folk Song.

Success in singing these Folk Songs is primarily dependent upon deep spiritual feeling. The voice is not nearly so important as the spirit; and then rhythm, for the Negro's soul is linked with rhythm, and it is an essential characteristic of most all the Folk Songs.

It is a serious misconception of their meaning and value to treat them as "minstrel" songs, or to try to make them funny by a too literal attempt to imitate the manner of the Negro in singing them, by swaying the body, clapping the hands, or striving to make the peculiar inflections of voice that are natural with the colored people. Their worth is weakened unless they are done impressively, for through all these songs there breathes a hope, a faith in the ultimate justice and brotherhood of man. The cadences of sorrow invariably turn to joy, and the message is ever manifest that eventually deliverance from all that hinders and oppresses the soul will come, and man—every man—will be free.

H. T. B.

New York, 1917

Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child

Negro Spiritual
Arranged by

H. T. BURLEIGH

Voice *Lamentoso*

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less chile,

Piano *pp* *p ben sostenuto*

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less chile, —

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less chile, — A long

*) The original form of this measure was written the liberty of altering it as above. H. T. B.



In order to facilitate vocalization I have taken

ways from home a long ways from

rit.

a tempo

home. A long ways from home

a tempo

a long ways from home

p

Some-times I feel like I'm

p

This system contains the first staff of music. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole rest for four measures, then enters with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and half note C5. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a complex arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present above the vocal staff and below the piano staff.

al - mos' gone — Some-times I feel like I'm al - mos' gone —

cres - cen - do

This system contains the second staff of music. The vocal line continues with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and half note C5, followed by a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and half note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with the arpeggiated figure. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present below the piano staff. The lyrics "al - mos' gone —" are written below the vocal staff, and "Some-times I feel like I'm al - mos' gone —" are written below the piano staff. The word "cres - cen - do" is written below the piano staff.

Some-times I feel like I'm al - mos' gone — A long

This system contains the third staff of music. The vocal line continues with a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and half note C5, followed by a half note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and half note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with the arpeggiated figure. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present below the piano staff. The lyrics "Some-times I feel like I'm al - mos' gone —" are written below the vocal staff, and "A long" are written below the piano staff.

ways — from home — a long ways — from

home. A long ways — from home a

rit. e dim. a tempo
long ways — from home.

pp rit. e dim. p a tempo mpp

NEGRO SPIRITUALS

By H. T. BURLEIGH

ARRANGED FOR SOLO VOICE

- Ain't Goin' to Study War No Mo'. *Two keys.*
Balm in Gilead. *Two keys.*
By An' By. *Two keys.*
Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray. *One key.*
De Gospel Train. *Two keys.*
Deep River. *Three keys.*
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel. *One key.*
Don't You Weep When I'm Gone. *One key.*
Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit. *Two keys.*
Go Down Moses. *Two keys.*
Hard Trials. *One key.*
Heav'n Heav'n. *Two keys.*
He's Just De Same Today. *Two keys.*
I Don't Feel No-Ways Tired. *One key.*
I Want To Be Ready. *One key.*
I Stood On De Ribber Ob Jerdon. *Two keys.*
John's Gone Down On De Island. *Two keys.*
Let Us Cheer The Weary Traveler. *Two keys.*
Little David Play On Your Harp. *Two keys.*
My Lord What A Morning. *Two keys.*
My Way's Cloudy. *One key.*
Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen. *Two keys.*
Oh Didn't It Rain. *Two keys.*
Oh Wasn't Dat a Wide Ribber. *Two keys.*
O Peter Go Ring Dem Bells. *Two keys.*
O Rocks Don't Fall On Me. *Two keys.*
Sinner Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass. *One key.*
Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child. *Three keys.*
Steal Away. *Two keys.*
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. *Two keys.*
'Tis Me O Lord. *One key.*
Weepin' Mary. *Two keys.*
Were You There. *Two keys.*
You May Bury Me In De Eas'. *Two keys.*

ARRANGED FOR MALE VOICES

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|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Deep River. | Heav'n Heav'n. | 'Tis Me O Lord. |
| De Gospel Train. | Oh Peter Go Ring Dem Bells. | Were You There. |
| Go Down Moses. | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. | |

ARRANGED FOR FEMALE VOICES

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Balm in Gilead. | I Want To Be Ready. |
| By An' By. | My Way's Cloudy. |
| Deep River. | Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen. |
| De Gospel Train. | Oh Didn't It Rain. |
| Go Down Moses. | Oh Peter Go Ring Dem Bells. |
| Hard Trials. | Sinner Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass. |
| Heav'n Heav'n. | Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child. |
| I Don't Feel No-Ways Tired. | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. |
| | Weepin' Mary. |

ARRANGED FOR MIXED VOICES

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray. | Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen. |
| Go Down Moses. | Sinner Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass. |
| Heav'n Heav'n. | Steal Away. |
| I Hope My Mother Will Be There. | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. |
| I'm A Rollin'. | Were You There. |
| My Lord What A Morning. | |

